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Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 5:49 PM
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Subject: Strategic Update - 2022 02 15

STRATEGIC UPDATES FOR DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL

The information in this report is current to 2022-02-15 at 1800 hours.

Opposition to Public Health Measures

No incidents to report.

ASSESSMENT

Currently, there is no specific, identified threat and monitoring remains attuned to where ideologically motivated extremism may manifest among participants in or supporters of opposition activities.

Freedom Convoy 2022

On February 14, 2022, the federal government invoked the Emergencies Act to provide additional powers to handle ongoing blockades and protests against pandemic restrictions. PM Trudeau said the measures will be geographically targeted and time limited. A cabinet declaration of emergency is in effect immediately and must be presented to Parliament within seven days. If either the Commons or the Senate votes against the motion, the emergency declaration would be revoked.

On February 15, 2022 (today), Orders in Council (OIC) were released outlining the rationale and authorities granted under the invocation. The document outlines the following “special temporary measures”:

- (i) measures to regulate or prohibit any public assembly — other than lawful advocacy, protest or dissent — that may reasonably be expected to lead to a breach of the peace, or the travel to, from or within any specified area, to regulate or prohibit the use of specified property, including goods to be used with respect to a blockade, and to designate and secure protected places, including critical infrastructure,
- (ii) measures to authorize or direct any person to render essential services of a type that the person is competent to provide, including services related to removal, towing and storage of any vehicle, equipment, structure or other object that is part of a blockade anywhere in Canada, to relieve the impacts of the blockades on Canada’s public and economic safety, including measures to identify those essential services and the persons competent to render them and to provide reasonable compensation in respect of services so rendered,

- (iii) measures to authorize or direct any person to render essential services to relieve the impacts of the blockade, including measures to regulate or prohibit the use of property to fund or support the blockade, to require any crowdfunding platform and payment processor to report certain transactions to the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada and to require any financial service provider to determine whether they have in their possession or control property that belongs to a person who participates in the blockade,
- (iv) measures to authorize the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to enforce municipal and provincial laws by means of incorporation by reference,
- (v) the imposition of fines or imprisonment for contravention of any order or regulation made under section 19 of the *Emergencies Act*; and
- (vi) other temporary measures authorized under section 19 of the *Emergencies Act* that are not yet known.

Weapons Theft (Peterborough)

Police Reporting

In a media release yesterday, it was confirmed by Peterborough Police Service that the investigation of the tractor trailer stolen early Sunday morning carrying over 2,000 firearms is ongoing. PPS further reported this afternoon that the truck cab had been located in Brampton; the trailer and its cargo (firearms) were not with the truck. PPS notes the investigation thus far is indicating it was a crime of opportunity rather than a targeted incident, as it is suspected the individuals responsible entered several other commercial yards in Peterborough and attempted to steal different trucks and trailers prior to the theft under investigation.

Open Source Reporting

Social media posts by supporters of the convoy continue to propagate the conspiracy theory that police are going to plant the stolen firearms from the tractor trailer in Peterborough around the Ottawa blockade.

Coutts, Alberta Blockade

Open Source

Media reporting indicates that a significant proportion of the protestors at the Coutts, Alberta blockade departed today. A RCMP spokesperson indicated the port of entry was reopened and traffic was able to cross in both directions.

Social media posts by supporters of the convoy are articulating the conspiracy theory that the firearms seized at the Coutts, Alberta convoy blockade on February 14, 2022 were planted by police as a pretext for enforcement.

Ottawa Demonstrations

Police Reporting

The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) reports a minimal number of protestors currently in attendance at Parliament Hill.

The OPS reports that 357 trucks remain in the “red zone” of Ottawa’s downtown core and have not yet moved to Wellington Street. An unspecified number of trucks have been repositioned into the “green zone” on Wellington Street.

Additional reporting indicates as many as 6 trucks seeking to depart Ottawa were deliberately boxed in by other convoy vehicles at the Rideau Street and Sussex Drive intersection.

OPP and OPS continue to engage with various protest leaders to discuss the possibility of moving their trucks out of residential areas to the designated area at Parliament Hill. There is reportedly enduring division between the groups on their desire to leave their areas.

Open Source Reporting

Protest organizers and participants continue to express displeasure at the invocation of the *Emergencies Act* in social media and in interviews.

The fundraising campaigns for the Freedom Convoy and Adopt a Trucker are no longer on the GiveSendGo platform. The funds raised to date were effectively frozen as a result of the court order as financial institutions are prohibited from dealing with the GiveSendGo funds. GiveSendGo has publicly indicated their intent not to comply with the order and deny the Ontario courts jurisdiction over their fund. Bitcoin wallet for the blockade can no longer be accessed online. Its last available value was \$1.2M CAD.

Media reporting indicates that the TD Bank plans to hand over the \$1M in funds previously released by GoFundMe for the blockade to the Ontario courts, along with approximately \$400,000 in direct donations, for distribution or return to donors.

Toronto Demonstrations

Police Reporting

Out of an abundance of caution, Queen’s Park Circle remains closed to vehicle traffic. All other road closures have been reopened.

TPS has no intelligence to indicate protests are planned in the downtown core this week.

Ports of Entry - Windsor

Police Reporting

Ambassador Bridge is fully open. Canada-bound and US-bound traffic flowing freely.

Ports of Entry – Niagara / Queenston-Lewiston Bridge

Police Reporting

The QEW has been opened at Gilmore Road. No issues were reported.

Unconfirmed social media information from TPS Intelligence identified a potential convoy to take the Queenston, Lewiston Bridge on Feb 19th 2022.

Ports of Entry – Sarnia

Police Reporting

Highway 402 is open.

OPP reporting indicates that traffic is moving normally at the Blue Water Bridge.

Ports of Entry – Nipigon

Police Reporting

OPP reporting has identified a potential blockade at the Nipigon River Bridge scheduled for February 26, 2022.

Ports of Entry – Fort Frances

Police Reporting

OPP arrested a lone demonstrator who was obstructing traffic 300 meters from the border. No other issues reported.

Other Potential Activity

OPP reporting indicates that a group of people have travelled to possibly block the border at Pigeon River, and appear to be camping on site. Their intention is unclear.

Open Source Reporting

Social media information indicates that farmers from the Thunder Bay area intend to block bridges and border crossings with 1000 tractors. The message also claims that they are going to a border crossing with 5000 vehicles, including commercial motor vehicles. The border point is not named: it is possible that Pigeon River is the destination.

Local convoy actions are anticipated in other jurisdictions across the province, please see the updated event schedule for additional information.

Social media information has called for peaceful protests in other jurisdictions that have provided police personnel to Ottawa.

Media reporting indicates that commercial truck drivers in the US are planning to begin their own convoys.

ASSESSMENT

Protestors are likely to frame the federal government invocation of the Emergencies Act as a sign of government weakness, proof of government “tyranny”, an escalation to violence, and

an acknowledgement that the blockades have been successful. A recurring theme in their messaging is of having been infiltrated and of potential false flag operations against them by the government. Protestors at the ongoing blockade are likely to remain defiant, and solidarity protests are likely to continue elsewhere.

Police reporting for several days has indicated that the attitude toward police at the Ottawa blockade has become more adversarial and confrontational. The available reporting indicates a growing number of counter protests, including incidents where convoys are physically blocked by individuals or small groups. Such counter protests are likely to continue. These counter protests could increase the threat of conflict at protest sites, and raise the possibility of injury to individuals who place themselves in the way of vehicles.

The situation in Ontario remains volatile and represents a public safety threat and an officer safety threat. The potential for conflict or an act of violence is likely increasing as the Ottawa blockade continues. The potential for conflict has not decreased with the enforcement action in Windsor. The possibility of an act of mischief against strategic targets should not be discounted.

Protest organizers are attributing the lifting of restrictions in some provinces to their protests. This perceived success will likely result in a hardened resolve amongst the protestors and their supporters. Additionally, organizers have stated an intent to hold blockades in provinces that have not dropped COVID-19 related mandates; it is almost certain that this will occur.

At this juncture, there is no concrete, specific, or credible threat with regard to the Freedom Convoy protest and Operation BearHug 2.0 activity. However, the possibility that a lone actor or group of individuals could enact a physical threat with little or no warning cannot be excluded.

EVENT SCHEDULE

February 15, 2022 – February 18, 2022
Freedom Convoy 2022 – Fort McMurray to Ottawa

February 19, 2022
Toronto
Possible planned protest at Queens Park at 1200

Cornwall
Possible planned protest to take place on February 19, 2022, time U/K

Niagara Peninsula Convoy 2022
Potential target of is the Peace Bridge/Queenston-Lewiston via slow roll/blockade.

Haldimand- Norfolk
Possible protest at 1030 hours, exact location U/K

Hamilton
Freedom of Choice Rally, estimated 50-200 persons attending

Saturday February 26, 2022
Nipigon Bridge

Protest was scheduled for 13 February has been rescheduled for February 26, 2022

U/K Date

Thunder Bay

Canada Unity – Operation Bearhug Canada

Strategic Border crossing disruptions. Plans unconfirmed.

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